

American

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U.S. Works to Prevent Human Trafficking at Major Sporting Events

By Jane Morse | Staff Writer | 30 January 2014

Washington — Olympic Games, World Cups and other major sporting events offer fun, excitement, and economic opportunities. They also attract the crime of human trafficking, says Luis CdeBaca, the ambassador-at-large for the U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Major sporting events often require massive capital improvement and infrastructure projects, creating a huge demand for cost-effective labor and materials, CdeBaca told the House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organization at a January 27 hearing. In regions with sizable migrant populations, he said, much of this labor force will cross at least one border to reach the job site.

This raises questions for governments that host these events, CdeBaca said. What protections exist for these laborers? What methods are being used to screen migrant workers who may be victims of trafficking, including through debt bondage that resulted from paying hefty recruitment fees in their home countries?

Once events are underway, the locations become massive destinations for travel and tourism, he said, creating opportunities for human trafficking for sex.

Addressing those risks means putting safeguards in place every step of the way, CdeBaca said.

In recent years, the U.S. State Department has worked with governments and nongovernmental organizations in South Africa as they prepared for the 2010 FIFA World Cup and in the United Kingdom leading up to the 2012 Olympics, CdeBaca told the subcommittee. "We've collaborated on efforts to prevent trafficking surrounding these events and kept a close eye on reports that followed them. And if there's an overarching lesson that we've taken away from these cases, it's that efforts to respond to modern slavery need to be sustainable and comprehensive, targeting all forms of trafficking," CdeBaca said.

The ambassador lauded the efforts of partners in the transportation industry like the nonprofit group Airline Ambassadors International and Delta Airlines, which, he said, are helping to make fighting trafficking part of the way air carriers do business. In the corporate hospitality sector, Carlson and Hilton Hotels and Resorts long have been leaders in private-sector action to combat human trafficking, the ambassador said.

"One of the biggest challenges we face in the struggle against modern slavery is the relative lack of public data and research on this issue," CdeBaca said. He urged more comprehensive crime-information gathering at major sporting events both in the United States and abroad.

Human trafficking, CdeBaca said, takes place every day in every country in the world, victimizing an estimated 27 million men, women and children. Despite the scope of this crime, around the world roughly only 40,000 victims of trafficking are being identified each year, he said.

"Every single person living under the yoke of modern slavery is the victim of a kind of exploitation that has no place in the 21st century," CdeBaca said. "And every single victim deserves our focus and our attention."

"So in cases where we suspect there may be a heightened risk of trafficking — whether relating to a particular industry or migration route or major event — we need to ramp up efforts to prevent this crime and root it out," CdeBaca said. "We need not only to build on established best practices, but to develop fresh ideas for identifying victims, investigating trafficking cases and enforcing trafficking laws."

Secretary Kerry Presents Awards for Corporate Excellence

29 January 2014

Washington — On January 29, Secretary of State John Kerry presented the Secretary of State's 2013 Award for Corporate Excellence (ACE) to Fruit of the Loom in Honduras, Plantronics in Mexico and Taylor Guitars in Cameroon.

The annual award recognizes U.S.-owned businesses that play vital roles around the world as good corporate citizens in supporting sustainable development, respect for human and labor rights, environmental protection, open markets, transparency and other democratic values.

Garment manufacturer Fruit of the Loom in Honduras was honored for achieving a groundbreaking collective-bargaining agreement with its workers that has become a model for Central America; recognizing unions, empowering workers, and promoting freedom-of-association training in its Honduran assembly facilities; providing 10,000 health screenings; and engaging in environmental stewardship through reducing carbon emissions and providing ecological stoves to rural areas.

Electronic device manufacturer Plantronics in Mexico was honored for supporting Mexican science and technology development through establishing a center and sophisticated testing lab employing 100 professionals; forging agreements with local colleges and trade schools

to provide work-school collaboration assistance, internship opportunities, and recruitment; and undertaking preventive health initiatives for 2,200 people.

Musical instrument manufacturer Taylor Guitars in Cameroon was honored for environmentally and socially responsible sourcing, harvesting and milling of rare ebony, including conserving ebony stocks by raising consumer awareness; enhancing local incomes by hiring local workers; training workers to use state-of-the-art equipment; and encouraging Cameroonian legal and policy reforms to improve transparency and traceability of logging permits and respect for the rights and needs of other forest users.

The winners were chosen from among 12 finalists. The other nine finalists are Apache Corporation in Egypt, Ball Corporation in Serbia, Boeing in the People's Republic of China, Citibank in Brazil, Coca-Cola Company in Romania, Dole Food Company in Ecuador, Esso in Angola, Mars Incorporated in Indonesia, and VOS Flips in Guatemala. More information on the finalists is available at <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2013/218469.htm>.

For 15 years, the secretary has bestowed the ACE to U.S. businesses that undertake responsible activities to improve lives and advance the needs of local communities around the world. The Department of State remains committed to furthering best practices by collaborating with U.S. businesses. For more information, please visit <http://www.state.gov/e/eb/ace>.

President Obama Cites Expansive U.S. Global Engagement Through Diplomacy

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr. | Staff Writer |
29 January 2014

Washington — President Obama, in his annual speech to a joint session of the U.S. Congress, cited the crucial role of strong and principled American diplomacy in a world of challenges and threats.

At the beginning of his sixth year in office, Obama described America's global engagement as stronger than ever and as essential in strengthening peace and security. He called on Congress to support these global efforts, pass immigration reform, bolster the fight against terrorism, support Afghanistan's security, and restore trust in the Middle East peace process.

"You see, in a world of complex threats, our security, our leadership depends on all elements of our power, including strong and principled diplomacy," Obama said during his hourlong address to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives and a global television audience.

"American diplomacy has rallied more than 50 countries to prevent nuclear materials from falling into the wrong hands, and allowed us to reduce our own reliance on Cold War stockpiles," Obama said.

The president's references to a more expansive U.S. global engagement echoed remarks made by Secretary of State John Kerry at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where he told an audience of political, business and academic leaders that the United States has not stepped back from the world, but remains as much engaged as ever.

"Far from disengaging, America is proud to be more engaged than ever and, I believe, is playing as critical a role, perhaps as critical as ever, in pursuit of peace, prosperity and stability in various parts of the world," Kerry told the Davos audience January 24.

Obama told Congress that America's leadership is defined not just by defense against threats, but also by the enormous opportunities to do good, promote global understanding and greater cooperation, expand new markets and ultimately free people from fear and want.

"We do these things because they promote our long-term security, and we do them because we believe in the inherent dignity and equality of every human being, regardless of race or religion, creed or sexual orientation," Obama said. "On every issue, the world turns to us, not simply because of the size of our economy or our military might, but because of the ideals we stand for and the burdens we bear to advance them."

The president urged a divided Congress to heed the call from business, labor, faith and law enforcement groups to approve an immigration overhaul, in part because of the positive impact it will have on the U.S. economy, but also because of immigration's strengthening power to enhance the United States.

"Independent economists say immigration reform will grow our economy and shrink our deficits by almost \$1 trillion in the next two decades," Obama said. "And for good reason: When people come here to fulfill their dreams — to study, invent, contribute to our culture — they make our country a more attractive place for businesses to locate and create jobs for everybody."

Obama told Congress that when he entered office in 2009 nearly 180,000 U.S. soldiers were serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, but today all combat troops are out of Iraq and more than 60,000 American soldiers have been withdrawn from Afghanistan.

With Afghan forces taking the lead for the nation's security, U.S. and allied forces have moved into a support

and training role, the president added. "Together with our allies, we will complete our mission there by the end of this year, and America's longest war will finally be over," the president said.

The president also emphasized that the United States will begin moving away from a permanent war footing, limiting further the prudent use of drones in security operations and reforming the U.S. surveillance programs to ensure that the privacy of ordinary people is not being violated.

The United States will continue to work with the international community to usher in the future that the Syrian people deserve — "a future free of dictatorship, terror and fear," Obama said.

"As we speak, American diplomacy is supporting the Israelis and Palestinians as they engage in the difficult but necessary talks to end the conflict there, to achieve dignity and an independent state for Palestinians, and lasting peace and security for the state of Israel," Obama said.

U.S. Emphasizes International Cooperation in Arms Control

By Sonya Weakley | Staff Writer | 28 January 2014

Washington — In a concerted effort to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons, the United States will continue to pursue international cooperation and transparency.

In a discussion on U.S. security policy at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs in Stockholm on January 17, Frank Rose, deputy assistant secretary of state for arms control, verification and compliance, said the United States is taking a multipronged approach.

Among the priorities is maintaining a dialogue with Russia to find better ways to verify the weapons capabilities of each country, as well as setting an example for other countries with nuclear weapons capabilities.

As one of the five major nuclear weapons countries — along with China, France, Great Britain and Russia — the United States is committed to "continued discussions on issues related to all three pillars of [nuclear security]: nonproliferation, disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy," Rose said.

The recently completed Megatons to Megawatts program signified a major step in this direction. Under a 1993 agreement, the United States purchased 500 metric tons of uranium from dismantled Russian weapons to generate electricity in U.S. commercial nuclear power plants. The last shipment arrived at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Kentucky in December 2013.

In addition, the New START treaty, effective February 5, 2011, restricts each country to numbers of nuclear warheads between 1,500 and 1,675, roughly 85 percent below Cold War levels.

The United States also is working closely with NATO to achieve significant reductions in U.S. and Russian nuclear weapons in Europe, where Russia holds greater stockpiles. NATO also is seeking greater transparency in verifying each country's holdings.

Additional steps in the U.S. approach include negotiating a treaty that ends the production of fissile materials for use in making nuclear weapons. The United States is consulting with China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, India, Pakistan and other countries to find a way to start negotiations for a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty.

Resolving differences with Russia on verification of missile defenses remains a major U.S. objective. "Over the past 20 years, both Democratic and Republican administrations have concluded it is in our national interest to cooperate with Russia on missile defense," Rose said.

The U.S. missile-defense system is aimed at defending the United States and its European, Middle Eastern and Asian allies against regional threats. "These are threats that are growing, and must be met," he said. U.S. missile defenses are not designed for, or capable of, undermining the Russian or Chinese strategic deterrents, he added.

The United States cannot agree to limit its defense systems, but "we believe that cooperation and transparency can provide Russia the visibility and predictability it seeks," Rose said.

U.S. Works to End Domestic and International Gender Violence

By Jane Morse | Staff Writer | 28 January 2014

Washington — The Obama administration is redoubling its efforts to end gender violence in the United States, as well as around the world.

On January 22, President Obama announced the release of a new report that outlines administration efforts to do more to protect women and girls from violence. "Rape and Sexual Assault: A Renewed Call to Action" analyzes the most recent reliable data about sexual assault in the United States, catalogues the responses taken so far to combat the problem, and identifies areas for further action.

"Sexual violence is more than just a crime against individuals," Obama told a January 22 gathering for the

White House Council on Women and Girls. "It threatens our families; it threatens our communities; ultimately, it threatens the entire country. It tears apart the fabric of our communities."

But the president added: "We have the power to do something about it as a government, as a nation. We have the capacity to stop sexual assault, support those who have survived it, and bring perpetrators to justice."

Nearly one in five U.S. women has been raped during her lifetime, according to the report. Nearly 98 percent of the perpetrators are male.

Noting that the fight against sexual violence began with a fundamental change in U.S. cultural attitudes, Obama said that society needs "to encourage young people, men and women, to realize that sexual assault is simply unacceptable."

"We've got to keep teaching young men in particular," Obama said, "to show women the respect they deserve and to recognize sexual violence and be outraged by it, and to do their part to stop it from happening in the first place."

According to Obama, U.S. commitment to ending gender violence is enshrined in the Violence Against Women Act, legislation spearheaded by Vice President Biden when he served as a senator. The act, reauthorized for the third time by Obama in 2013, funds the training of detectives, prosecutors, health care providers and victim advocates. It also funds training for sexual assault nurse examiners, who provide supportive care for victims while collecting forensic evidence after a sexual assault.

The White House Council on Women and Girls, signed into being by Obama's executive order in 2009, has responsibility for ensuring that federal agencies fulfill their duties in ending gender violence. The council has as its members the head of every federal agency and major White House office and is the central point for coordination and cooperation with the overall goals of the administration.

"You can judge a nation, and how successful it will be, based on how it treats its women and girls," Obama said. "Those nations that are successful, they're successful in part because women and girls are valued. And I'm determined that, by that measure, the United States of America will be the global leader."

Addressing gender-based violence is "a cornerstone of the [Obama] administration's efforts to promote women's empowerment and gender equality around the world," according to Catherine Russell, the State Department's ambassador-at-large for global women's issues.

In testimony to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on November 20, 2013, Russell said violence against women and girls is "a global epidemic."

"Worldwide, an estimated one in three women will be physically or sexually abused in her lifetime," Russell said.

Gender-based violence, Russell said, undermines the dignity, overall health status and human rights of the millions of individuals who experience it, as well as the public health, economic stability and security of nations.

In partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development, the State Department, Russell said, supports efforts by local governments to investigate and prosecute crimes of gender-based violence; provide legal and psychological services to survivors; promote prevention by educating communities and engaging with critical stakeholders, including men, boys and religious leaders; and enhance the ability of the media and civil society to address these issues.

"We also work with the private sector to identify creative and innovative programs to prevent and respond to gender-based violence," Russell said. "We work to create opportunities — through investing in education to entrepreneurship — that will help women and girls overcome barriers and empower them to be less vulnerable to violence, exploitation, brutality and abuse."

Secretary Kerry on International Holocaust Remembrance Day

28 January 2014

This blog post by Secretary of State John Kerry was published on the State Department website on January 27.

Remembering the Past, Safeguarding the Future

By John Kerry

"It was so terrible. It was hard for the mind to absorb it." Those were the words of U.S. Master Sergeant Marvin Josephs as he entered Buchenwald on April 12, 1945, along with military chaplain Rabbi Herschel Schachter.

Decades later, Josephs still remembered vividly the words "You're free" reverberating from Rabbi Schachter's bullhorn. He remembered seeing the crematoria and the house of the commandant and his notorious wife, Ilse Koch, the "Beast of Buchenwald." Above all, he remembered the survivors -- emaciated and tortured -- coming forward at the sound of the rabbi's bullhorn.

The scenes of liberated prisoners were so overwhelming that Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered every man in the U.S. 4th Armored Division to walk the grounds of

Buchenwald. Josephs immediately understood why: "He didn't want people to ever deny what happened."

Nearly 70 years after World War Two ended, 70 years after the world's collective horror at the Holocaust, anti-Semitism remains a global menace. It is not enough to remember the millions of innocent lives lost in one of the darkest chapters in all of world history. We must reaffirm our vow never to forget the evil that comes from bigotry and intolerance and turn that commitment into action.

Many of us in the United States have personal and family connections to this difficult history – and to the cause of action now. My brother's interest in our family's genealogy took him back to the Czech Republic just months ago to learn more about the history of ancestors we had never even heard about until the last decade, stories of a great uncle Otto and his sister Jenni who perished in the Holocaust.

I'll never forget, on my first trip to Berlin as Secretary of State, meeting with a group of young Germans. They told me something I never knew about the city where I'd spent time growing up in the aftermath of World War Two. Throughout the city, they've placed "stumbling stones" to mark where Jews were murdered in the streets and other victims of the Holocaust. Every day, passers-by remember what happened -- and equally important -- they never forget or deny it.

Holocaust Remembrance Day calls us to condemn anti-Semitism in every form – whether it's the disturbing rise of xenophobic and anti-Semitic parties in Europe or the uptick of violence against Jewish people anywhere in the world.

The EU's Agency for Fundamental Rights 2013 Report on Anti-Semitism underscores the stakes. One third of those surveyed experienced some form of anti-Semitic harassment over the past five years, with 26 percent enduring verbal assault or harassment over the past year alone -- just because they were Jewish.

What's more, 4 percent reported physical violence and 23 percent said they avoid Jewish events or sites because they don't feel safe.

Of course, the numbers don't tell the full story.

In Italy, police are tracking down the culprit who sent pig heads last week to Rome's Grand Synagogue, the Israeli Embassy, and a museum sponsoring a Holocaust exhibit.

In Romania, a government-owned television channel aired a profoundly anti-Semitic Christmas song, which claimed that Jews are only good "in the chimney as smoke."

If these acts of hate don't hit you in the gut, I don't know what will. If this isn't a call to action, I don't know what is.

We need to be forceful about what is right and what is wrong. But we also need to work to recognize our common humanity in others, and to start the conversations that will help others recognize ours.

That's why the Obama Administration has launched the Atrocities Prevention Board. That's why we're working hand in glove with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Center for the Prevention of Genocide so that we can detect and highlight this global scourge.

And that's why, last year, Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Ira Forman and President Obama's Special Envoy to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Rashad Hussain joined an historic interfaith visit to the concentration camps at Dachau and Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The United States is committed to having the difficult conversations across cultures and religions that can actually change people's opinions. Pope Francis calls it "the dialogue of life," and we reaffirm today that there are indeed millions of lives that depend on it.

We -- each of us -- have a responsibility to stand up and affirm human dignity. In an interconnected world, anti-Semitism that goes unanswered anywhere is a threat to people everywhere. That is a collective challenge we all face in the 21st century.

U.K.-U.S. Agreement Focuses on Health Information Technology Use

27 January 2014

Washington — U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and United Kingdom Secretary of State for Health Jeremy Hunt have signed a bilateral agreement for the use and sharing of health information technology (IT) and tools.

The agreement aims at strengthening efforts to cultivate and increase the use of health IT tools and information that will improve the quality and efficiency of the delivery of health care in both countries, HHS said on its website January 23, the day the agreement was signed.

"While we have very different health care delivery systems and payment models, we both face similar challenges posed by aging populations, increased levels of co-morbid chronic disease and escalating complexity of care delivery and costs," Sebelius said in the announcement. "By working together, we can more effectively take on these challenges, improve the health IT

economy, and the health of the American and British populations.”

The agreement signals a formal commitment by both countries to collaborate on advancing the applications of data and technology to improve health, HHS said.

“This is a groundbreaking agreement that will help both of our countries use information and technology more effectively to improve care, safety and give people more control over their health, which is now even more important as we transcend care boundaries,” Hunt said. “By bringing knowledge together this will not only offer insight into tackling common problems across health IT, but, through innovation, it will help small to medium enterprises play an effective role in our health care market.”

The collaboration focuses on four key areas for health IT and innovation originally identified at a meeting between U.S. and U.K. officials on June 5, 2013:

- **Sharing Quality Indicators:** The collaboration reviewed existing quality indicators and selected depression symptom screening and knee-hip quality indicators, and is now “identifying alignments across existing British and American repositories to identify best practices in the design and use of quality indicators.” Future work will include mutually leveraging technical experts and data, and working on a standardized approach to quality indicator development.

- **Liberating Data and Putting It to Work:** HHS and the U.K. National Health Service will discuss and find areas of collaboration around open data and safe and secure data transparency of secondary stored data, with the consent of patients, to allow for the two countries to further assess the quality of preventive interventions and health care delivery. The two nations also will work on interoperability standards for improvement of data sharing and clinical care, respectively, with a focus on consumers and patients accessing and sharing their data.

- **Adopting Digital Health Record Systems:** Both health departments will work to maximize successful adoption of digital records across the health care spectrum and support the development of a robust health IT workforce.

- **Priming the Health IT Market:** Both organizations will work to support the health IT marketplace by identifying barriers to innovation, sharing individual certification approaches for patients and clinician-facing applications and strategies to support small and medium enterprise startups.

The full text of the memorandum of understanding (PDF, 200.42KB) is available on the HHS website.

Collaborative work outputs, such as best practices for the design and use of clinical quality measures, information on new data sets and expanded data catalogs, as well as progress made in supporting the health information technology will be showcased at the Health Innovation Expo conference in Manchester, England, in March and at the Health Datapalooza to be held in June in Washington.

This memorandum to help increase health IT tools use to improve health care quality, efficiency and delivery follows the memorandum of understanding with the European Commission signed in 2010. That memorandum facilitates more effective uses of eHealth and health IT by creating medical documentation that can be exchanged among countries and improves the care and safety of patients, HHS said.

Secretary Kerry Reaffirms U.S. Commitment to Peace in Middle East

By Jane Morse | Staff Writer | 24 January 2014

Washington — Secretary of State John Kerry reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to peace in the Middle East in remarks delivered January 24 to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Dismissing any suggestion that the United States is “disengaging” itself, Kerry said “America is proud to be more engaged than ever” and is playing a critical role in the pursuit of peace, prosperity and stability in various parts of the world.

Kerry emphasized that U.S. diplomacy in the Middle East is based on partnering. “We have no pretense about solving these problems alone,” the secretary said.

Kerry focused on the critical diplomatic challenges presented by Iran, Syria, Israel and the Palestinian Territories. He said initiatives taken so far “have the potential to reshape the Middle East and could even help create the foundations of a new order.”

For example, the agreement recently reached with Iran has the potential to roll back that country’s nuclear weapons program, Kerry said. He noted that Iran has taken a series of steps to reduce its stockpile of 20 percent enriched uranium, disable the infrastructure for its production and allow “unprecedented transparency” and monitoring to guarantee that Iran is complying with the agreement.

Kerry said the next challenge is “six months of intensive negotiations with the goal of resolving all the international community’s concerns about Iran’s nuclear program.” But if Iran can meet this test, Kerry said, the Middle East “will be a safer place, free from the fear of a nuclear arms race.”

In Syria, where the Assad regime has been responsible for atrocities and a horrifying amount of bloodshed, Kerry said he saw some flicker of hope for peace in recent talks between the Syrian government and the opposition.

More than 40 countries and institutions have assented to the Geneva communiqué, which was hammered out at the U.N.-hosted International Conference on Syria, also known as Geneva II, the week of January 20. The communiqué, Kerry said, clearly outlines that the conflict must conclude with the creation of a transitional government with full executive authority by mutual consent.

But Kerry said in no uncertain terms that Bashar al-Assad cannot be part of Syria's future. Assad's crimes, the secretary said, guarantee that "Assad will never have or be able to earn back the legitimacy to bring that country back together."

"This one man," Kerry said of Assad, "must step aside in favor of peace and of his nation. You can never achieve stability until he is gone."

The United States and its partners, Kerry said, will use diplomatic means to continue to fight for "a pluralistic, inclusive Syria where all minorities are protected, where all rights are protected, and where Syria can come together to be once again the secular and unified state that it was, represented by a government of the people's choice where all minorities are protected."

Of all the challenges now facing the Middle East, the most intractable is the struggle to make peace between Israelis and Palestinians, according to Kerry. The United States has remained committed over many decades to a peaceful resolution between the two parties because failure in this effort "will make certain additional conflict," Kerry said.

Despite U.S. efforts to facilitate an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, Kerry said, "This issue cannot be resolved at the United Nations. It can only be resolved between the parties."

"As committed as we [the United States] are, it is ultimately up to the Israelis and the Palestinians to reach an agreement on how to end this conflict," Kerry said. "Make no mistake, this will require difficult political decisions and painful compromises on both sides. These are emotional issues, many embedded in age-old narratives."

"We often spend so much time talking about what both parties stand to lose without peace that we actually sometimes forget to talk enough about what they stand to gain from peace," Kerry said.

"Palestinians stand to gain, above all else, an independent, viable, contiguous state, their own place among the community of nations," the secretary said. Israel could gain important economic partners, Kerry said, because nations of the Arab League and 35 Muslim countries stand ready under the Arab Peace Initiative to recognize Israel and normalize relations the moment a peace agreement is reached.

"Intensive, creative, strong diplomacy requires cooperation, and that is exactly why the United States is so engaged in the Middle East and around the world, and why we will stay so," Kerry said. "As our friends and partners take courageous steps forward, they can be assured that President Obama and his administration will remain engaged for the long haul, but we will also confront these challenges with the urgency that they deserve."

The World Economic Forum, which drew some 2,500 participants from almost 100 countries, is an independent international organization committed to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

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